along the river banks, the water quality of the river shows a discermible improvement at major locations over the pre-GAP quality. Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever increasing pollution load due to rapid urbanization and increase in population. Review of strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers is a continuous process. Due to continuous increase in the population resulting in increased pollution load, and gap in the availability of financial resources to take up works commensurate with the requirements, there is likely to be persistent divergence between the tackled pollution load and the actual pollution load.

**Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change**

2681. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) under UN has reportedly assessed that 11 out of last 12 years were among the hottest in recorded history and that (i) 120 million to 1.2 billion people in Asia will experience increased water stress by 2020 (ii) per capita water availability in India will drop from 1,820 cubic meter in 2001 to 1140 cubic meters by 2050 and (iii) in Himalayas, glaciers less than 4 kms long will disappear if average global temperatures rise by 3°C; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps Government propose to initiate in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report contains the relevant observations in this regard, IPCC Climate Change 2007 provides current understanding of the Physical Science basis of climate change; impact, adaptation and vulnerability to climate change and mitigation of climate change. The assessments are based on model projections and would need to be further substantiated by in depth National studies especially the recession of glaciers in the Himalayas.

India has been following a path of sustainable development through a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change and reduce carbon emissions. Some of the steps taken by the Government include *inter alia*-setting up of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and encouraging energy conservation and introduction of energy efficiency labeling, promoting use of renewable energy, power sector reforms and active renewable energy programme, use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport, fuel switching to cleaner energy, afforestation and conservation of forests, promotion of clean coal technologies, reduction of gas flaring, encouraging. Mass Rapid Transport systems and environmental quality management for all sectors. Besides, India spends every year over 2 per cent of the GDP in development measures with strong adaptation content.

The National Environment Policy 2006 of Ministry of Environment and Forests *inter alia* addresses the issue of global warming. Government has also set up an "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change" in May 2007 to study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and to identify the measures that may be needed to address vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts.

A high level coordination committee chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister called "Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate National action for assessment adaptation and mitigation of climate change" was constituted on 6th June 2007. In the meeting held on 13th July 2007, it has been decided to prepare and finalise 'India's Climate Change Action Programme'.